REMARKS

A Change Of Correspondence Address form was mailed on September 15, 2001 to inform the Patent Office that applicants' attorney of record no longer is the Pillsbury Winthrop firm. However, that form was overlooked resulting in confusion in the transmittal of documents from the Patent Office to applicants' counsel. Since the September 15, 2001 submittal the Post Office box number of applicants' counsel has changed. Accordingly, an updated Change Of Correspondence Address form accompanies the present submissions. It is requested that care be exercised to ensure that future Patent Office communications be mailed directly to applicants' counsel.

An Information Disclosure Statement is being filed herewith so that the prior art identified in the original specification will be considered. The present response amends the specification to correct errors in the identification of one of the prior art items.

The Abstract has been amended to overcome the deficiency noted by the Examiner.

The term "chimney" is not used in the claims remaining in the application, viz., new claims 15-20. Accordingly, it is believed that the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) has become moot.

Claims 1-8 and 10-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner has cited numerous deficiencies in those claims in support of the rejection.

By this response, the rejected claims have been canceled in favor of a new set of claims 15-20. In drafting these claims care has been exercised to avoid the shortcomings

of the canceled claims. Accordingly, it is believed that the §112, second paragraph rejection has been overcome.

To the extent that the previously presented claims were understandable to the Examiner, they were held to be unpatentable over the prior art.

Claims 1-3 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Patent 4,546,829-Martin. The Examiner states that Martin teaches obtaining effluences, subjecting them to separation of dusts, adjusting temperature, and injection into a hydrocarbon deposit. Martin also as been interpreted as teaching the use of: combustion gases; a mixture of N_2 and CO_2; and fossil fuel.

The remaining prior claims 5, 6 and 8-14 were rejected as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in light of the combined teachings of Martin and Patent 5,725,054-Shayegi et al, Patent 5,133,406-Puri or Patent 5,5,219,544-Kupper.

Applicants submit that the prior art references relied on by the Examiner neither disclose nor suggest the invention now recited in the new claims 15-20. More particularly, new main claim 15 recites a process for recovering hydrocarbons in oil well deposits and for reducing contamination in cement clinker production by the steps of: subjecting effluent combustion and/or calcining gases of cement clinker production to one or more of adsorption, separation of dusts, condensation, liquefaction, distillation and compression; adjusting the temperature, concentration, pressure and/or expenditure of the effluents in order to obtain treated inert gases compatible with the hydrocarbons of the deposits; and injecting the treated inert gases into the oil well deposits.

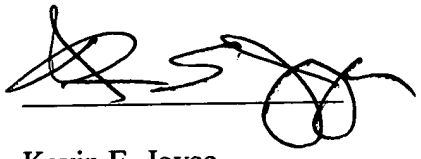
The importance of the present invention is that it permits further use of effluents derived from cement clinker production (that otherwise would just be released into the

atmosphere) to enhance recovery of hydrocarbons from oil well deposits. Martin does not disclose or suggest a process which simultaneously serves to reduce contamination created in cement clinker production and recover hydrocarbons from oil wells. Consequently, Martin does not disclose the process steps set forth in main claim 15 of processing combustion and/or clinker gases created during cement clinker production and using such gases to recover hydrocarbons. Instead, Martin simply combusts fuels on-site to create combustion gases which are processed for introduction into a subterranean deposit to recover hydrocarbons from the deposit. There is no disclosure or suggestion whatsoever in the Martin patent that cement clinker production and hydrocarbon recovery can be combined to create the synergetic effects of both reducing contamination in the effluents of the clinker production and enhancing hydrocarbon recovery. Therefore, Martin does not anticipate the process as now recited in new claims 15-20.

The deficiencies of Martin as a reference relative to the now-claimed invention are not overcome by what Shayegi et al, Puri and Kupper teach. None of the latter three references discloses or suggests combining cement clinker production with a hydrocarbon recovery process. Consequently, the invention defined in claims 15-20 is not obvious from the combined teachings of Martin, Shayegi et al, Puri and Kupper.

The present amendment is believed to overcome the formal deficiencies noted by the Examiner, and the new claims patentably distinguish applicants' invention from the art of record for the reasons stated above. Accordingly, it is urged that the application now is in condition for allowance, and such action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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